[Translation]

Forest Land

5804. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENTAND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether section 4 of Forest Act, 1927 is sufficient for converting the private and village panchayat land into the forest land and land can be categorised as forest land only with the announcement of section 4;

(b) if so, the logic behind taking action under section 6 to 19 of Forest Act, 1927; and

(c) the number of districts in Uttar Pradesh where land has been categorised as forest land under section 4 of Forest Act, 1927 and the names of districts where land remained to be categorised as forest land till date now and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Notification under section 4 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927 shows the intention of the State Government to constitute any land which is the property of Government, or over which the Government has proprietary rights, or to the whole or any part of the forest-produce of which the Government is entitled, a reserved forest. State Government issue notification under this section -

(i) declaring that it has been decided to constitute such land a reserved forest;

(ii) specifying, as nearly as possible, the situation and limits of such land; and

(iii) appointing an officer as Forest Settlement Officer to enquire into and determine the existence, nature and extent of any right alleged to exist in favour of any person in or over any land comprised within such limits, or in or over any forest produce.

Such land is declared reserved forest under section 20 only after completing the procedure from section 4 to section 19 of the act.

(c) The information is being collected from the State Government and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Ethical Chemist Shops

5805. SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA :
SHRI MANGAL RAM PREMI :
SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS :
SHRI A.G.S. RAM BABU :

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Start 'Ethical Chemist Shops' NHRC urged" appearing in the "Hindustan Times", dated April 4, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The news item, *inter alia*, refers to multiplicity of brand names in the market, difference in prices of similar products, and variation between prices at which drugs are supplies to the chemists and the eventual price at which they are merketed to the consumer. The news item also draws attention to a proposal that ethical chemists shop should be set up.

(c) Availability of medicines under different brand names is a reflection of competitiveness in the market. Such competition normally results in reduction in prices. The price which a brand commands should also be associated with its image in the market. In a competitive environment, in order to capture a larger market share, attractive commissions are given to wholesalesrs/retailers.

Under the existing drug policy approximately 50 per cent of the formulations are under price control. While these products are sold at the notified price in the case of non scheduled formulations, comepanies are free to fix their own prices.

Paddy Farmers

5806. SHRI L. RAMANA :
SHRI G. A. CHARAN REDDY :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government have urged the Centre a better deal for paddy farmers;

(b) whether a representation was also submitted by the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh in this regard;

(c) whether a plea that the paddy farmers be treated on par with wheat cultivators for whom the Centre had announced a bonus of Rs. 60 per quintal of wheat; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI CHATURANAN

MISHRA): (a) and (b) No Sir. No representations from States or the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh have been received.

(c) and (d) Question does not arise.

[Translation]

Indo-Dutch Project

5807. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received an Indo-Dutch project worth crores of rupees proposed to be set-up in Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh after clearance from the Ministry of Environment and National River Conservation Department; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the present status of the Project?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) and (b) A project for pollution abatement of river Ganga at Kanpur under the Ganga Action Plan Phase-II at an estimated cost of Rs. 105 crore has been posed for assistance to the Government of Netherlands. The project has not been sanctioned by the Government of Netherlands so far.

Check on Foreign Intelligence

5808. SHRI BRAHMANAND MANDAL : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propse to take any steps to check or monitor the activities of the Pak intelligence agency pertaining to its direct or indirect involvement in the internal matters of the country during the Indo-Pak talks; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) and (b) During the recent talks with Pakistan, Government of India have expressed serious concern at the terrorism and proxy war instigated by Pakistan. These views will be reiterated as and when necessary.

Residential Facilities for Hamalis

5809. SHRI SANAT MEHTA : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have provided Rs. 5 crore for building the Residential facilities for Hamalis;

(b) if so, the total expenditure incurred by now;

(c) the States which have taken advantage of this scheme; and

(d) the number of Hamalis who got residential facility under this Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) The Ministry of Welfare is not aware of any scheme for the welfare of Hamalis.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Bogus Shankracharyas

5810. KUMARI UMA BHARATI :
DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Desh Mein 60 Naqli Shankracharya" appearing in *Dainik Jagaran* dated March 12, 1997;

(b) whether the Government have conducted any inquiry in this regard; and

(c) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The matter is being looked into.

Thefts of Idols

5811. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the incidents of theft of idols from the temples are increasing in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any initiative has been taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to check the recurrence of such incidents;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b) According to information available, there were 280 cases/incidents of theft of antiques/idols during the year 1995. The number of such cases/incidents durign the year 1996 was 349. However, the number of idols stolen during